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and seeing the Hessian Cockneys watching some dry canal, with patient anxiety, till the moment of the water's taking that course; and filling the empty vase of some basking Amphion.—However the scene was a gay one, and the splendid carriage of the Elector, who sat in all the glory of a rich uniform and moustaches "*a la Prusse*," smoking most cavalierly, beside a lady, (not *his* Duchess,) was at once characteristic of the country and the individual.

After stopping here for three days, which passed most agreeably, we again took flight, and at the end of a forty miles excursion,

"In our stage-coach waggon, trotting in,
We made our entrance to the U.
Niversity of Gottingen."

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

WE scarcely know why we address our readers on this subject just now, except to tell them that we remember no time so dull as the present. The French are merely re-publishing and translating. In the former department, we remark particularly Châteaubriand's works, publishing, *en Livraisons*, Rollin's with notes, and I. B. Rousseau's. Of the latter we have already mentioned some, in a previous number, to these we may now add, Moore's life of Byron by Madame Sw. Belloc, who has already translated some other English works, and who constantly reviews English literature in the *Revue Encyclopédique*, in which, as might almost be expected, she sometimes delivers opinions that sound strangely enough in English ears; thus she lately asserted, in that work, that all the disturbances in Ireland proceeded from the methodists. In her prospectus to Lord Byron's *Memoirs*, she also says that Lord B.'s works ought to be as much enjoyed, (*goûté*), in France as in England, he being one of the children of the Revolution, which has not only altered the graver pages of history, but modified the imagination of poets, by placing before them facts such as almost to surpass imagination itself.

We may mention the price as a contrast with the English edition, 2 vols. 8vo. are published and cost 7 fr. 50. c. a volume! Another translation is of the poems of King Louis of Bavaria, which contain some passages, no way complimentary to the French, for instance one to this effect, "If you would have a mean opinion of human nature, go to France, and you will have attained your object." A new edition of Sir. W. Scott's novels, translated by Defauconpret, is also appearing, and by the same translator, a complete one of Cooper's.

Two new Dramatic pieces are performing with success in Paris, one by Mess. Soumet and Belmontet, *Une fête de Néron*, a dangerous subject to choose, as it necessarily calls to mind Racine's *Britannicus*, which if it would not be reckoned in the present time a dramatic *chef d'œuvre*, must at any rate be allowed to be a beautiful conversation in verse, with noble conceptions, and as excellent poetry as the poverty of the French language is capable of expressing. The subject of this tragedy is the death of Agrippina, which Nero endeavours to compass by various means, partly at the instigation of Poppea; once he sends her to sea in a vessel, of which part is to loosen, and this she escapes; then poison is tried, against which she is fortified by antidotes; and at length, she is slain by his soldiers in the palace. This

piece is said to be written with considerable elegance, and force.

Mons. Scribe has also brought forth from his fruitful brain, a new *bagatelle*, entitled, *Les Inconsolables*; these *inconsolables* are a young man whose sweetheart dies, the other a lady whose husband departs this life in America; they meet, pity each other, every body knows what pity is akin to, they sympathize, and—fall in love.

Of original works, we have to announce to our readers, the termination of Mons. Capefigue's history of Philippe Auguste; the third and fourth vols. contain the history of the crusade against the Albigenes, and some details of civil life in the middle ages.

There has also appeared a production, called *Mémorial de Sir Hudson Lowe*; we shall examine and report upon it at an early opportunity, probably next week, as it has already reached us.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

The Cambrian Quarterly Magazine.—Hughes, London.

To the Irish antiquary and patriot, any publication that tends to throw light upon any branch of Celtic literature, must possess much of the interest that attaches to researches confined to the literary relics of his own country. The Hibernian origin of the brave clans of Morven, admits of the clearest demonstration; and Ireland owes to a Welsh writer, the more gratifying proof, that the Gaelic originals of Ossian are the literary patrimony of Erin.* Though the affinity between the Irish and the Welsh, be more remote than that between the Irish and the Scotch Highlanders, a careful comparison of the languages of the two first named nations, will leave no doubt as to their original identity. The bond of consanguinity seems to have been remembered even down to the final subjugation of both; Ireland was always the retreat of the Welsh princes, when they could no longer maintain their own mountain fortresses against the overwhelming power of the Normans; and it is recorded of one of their Sovereigns, Blethyn ap Conon, that after a residence of a long duration in Ireland, he returned to his own country, with a company of skilful Irish musicians, who were very serviceable in modifying and improving the regulations to which the harpers and vocalists of his court were amenable. The editors of this periodical seem influenced, as far as men may be in these unromantic times, by the hereditary feeling towards their Irish brethren; they are anxious, as far as possible, to condescend with all publications or institutions for the illustration of the early annals of Ireland, confident that a literary union of the scholars in different branches of the Celtic, is the only effectual means of throwing a steady and consistent light on the primeval history of these islands.

Of the numbers that have hitherto appeared, the last is decidedly the best; it is not encumbered, as the first four numbers, in some measure, are, by articles of a somewhat local and pedantic cast.

There is, in the first number, a history of the Gauls and Armoricans, by a learned Breton correspondent of a Cambrian Society in London, which, from its erudite and ingenious

investigation of all the classical authorities that throw any light on the condition of the first Celtic colonists of Europe, is well deserving the attention of our young Vallanceys and O'Halarans; in the second number commences an article, under the title of the *Passengers*, which is intended to serve the traveller in Wales, as a guide to the most picturesque points of the mountain scenery, and to direct his attention to the geological and botanical phenomena.

The first number for the present year, amongst other articles, contains a sketch of a tour in Brittany, which gives a better insight into the manners, music, and literature of the brave Celtic colony that inhabit that country, than any work hitherto published; indeed, from the strong national affinity, no one is so well qualified to do justice to the subject as a Welshman. The Cambrian tourist met with a curious Irish manuscript which his Breton friends assured him they had shown to numbers, even of Irishmen, who could not explain it. A specimen is given in page 42.

There is also, in this number, an exposure of an intemperate attack in Blackwood's Magazine on the character of the Welsh and Irish. To the former the writer ascribes a character for dull mysticism and smouldering anger, and talks of them as a mixture of Celt and Saxon, which is an historical mistake.

The Cambrian replies by ridiculing the metaphysics of this philosopher of the land of metaphysics.

"If 'imagination' and 'perseverance' produce 'dull mysticism,' Milton would have written Nixon's Prophecies or Moore's Almanack, instead of *Paradise Lost*; and Shakspeare would have been a country conjuror in indifferent practice, instead of the enchanter whose magic wand drew that circle within which none durst walk but he."

The witer (in Blackwood's) appeal to the Welsh language, as a proof that the Welsh are a mixture of Celt and Saxon, is answered by a quotation from Mr. Sharon Turner, who asserts *directly the contrary*, calling the Welsh "peculiar and original;" and he mentions its being "so unlike the other languages of Europe," as a reason why foreigners have so seldom acquired it!

The Cambrian controversialist, by way of showing himself as great an adept in Caledonian matters, as the Caledonian had shown himself in logic and the Welsh language, proceeds to prove that Wallace and Burns were, according to the united authorities of Pinkerton and Sir Walter Scott, Welshmen!

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Paris, February 22nd.

Our heads are still turned with the ball which was lately given for the relief of the poor, and the receipts of which exceeded £5000. About 300 English were present at this entertainment; but of all the ambassadors in Paris there were only two, viz. those of England and Russia. All the expenses of the entertainment were defrayed by the king; 1000lbs. of wax candles were used, and the company consumed 8000 quarts of lemonade, orgeat, &c. 8000 ices, and 8000 cakes. It was particularly noticed, that of all the Royal Family, only the members of the Orleans branch were present; but their absence has been accounted for by prior and indispensable engagements.

* See the *Claims of Ossian*, by the Rev. Edward Davies.

There was a very full meeting at the Academy of Sciences on the 15th, but little of interest occurred. M. M. Robiquet and Breton Charland announced that they had performed some experiments with the essential oil of bitter almonds, from which they found that this oil on being exposed to the action of the air, became converted into an acid which has all the properties of benzoic acid, and M. Ravier read a note from M. Raucourt on the formation of ice in the Neva, and the different degrees of temperature of water under ice. In order to arrive at his conclusions, he had pierced a body of ice 1000 feet in width, and sixty-three in thickness, and he constantly observed that the temperature of the water at the bottom, was less than that of the water which was immediately under the ice.

Another Number of the *Revue Encyclopédique* has just made its appearance, I have only had time to run through it hastily, so that I cannot attempt to give you a fair analysis of its contents—there is little lost however, I believe, by my omitting to do so, for it appears more than usually dull. Few works of interest have appeared during the last few days, one of the most interesting is *Contes d'Espagne et d'Italie, par M. de Musset*. The *Globe*, which is a literary Journal of great celebrity here, has devoted four columns to a criticism of the work, which certainly seems entitled to the honours of translation. M. Caillie's work has not met with so extensive a sale as might have been expected, considering the *amour propre* of the French. One would have imagined, that the circumstance of the discoverer of Timbuctoo, being a Frenchman, would have caused the work to sell well, but such is not the fact—perhaps its length is against it, the French now seem to be fond of light reading and thin volumes.

I see by the Geneva papers, that an English theatre has been established in that town. The actors, however, are amateurs, and their scenery and decorations are spoken of more highly than their acting. As to English theatricals here, we have no hope of seeing them re-established on a good footing—the French will hear of nothing without Miss Smithson, and no manager has spirit enough to engage her, and such a company as would be fit to support her. Miss Smithson, however, they will have, it seems, for a liberal offer has been made to her to play melo-dramatic parts, without speaking alone of the French theatres.

A company is forming at Paris for the conveyance of fish from the sea coast to the capital, at a cheap and rapid rate. This will be a great addition to the *agréments* of Paris, for at times, during the summer, no fish is to be obtained in a state fit for the table. The Parisians are also turning their attention in the way of improvement to horses, and it is announced that on the first Monday in every month, there will be a market for the exclusive sale of race and other superior horses.

It appears by a recent census of Sicily, that it contains 1,780,000 inhabitants, 300,000 of whom are ecclesiastics, or living on ecclesiastical revenues; there are in the island 1,117 convents, containing 30,000 monks, and 30,000 nuns. Connected with this clerical notice, I may observe, that a German Journalist has been at the pains of making a calculation of the average revenue of churchmen in different countries. According to him the ministers of religion have in France, 756 fr. per annum; in Russia, 244; in

Prussia, 1,460; in Austria, 1,263; in Hungary, 1,482; in Spain, 1,430; in Portugal, 2,906; in England, 10,155; in Ireland, 10,090. The writer calls these ministers all curés or rectors.

The arts and sciences are making rapid progress in France; in every large town academies of sciences, &c. are forming, and at Marseilles there has just been established a scientific and literary institution under the title of *Athénæum*, which promises soon to rival the best institutions of a similar nature in Paris. In this way the liberties of the French nation are secure, for, in the present day, liberty and literature march hand in hand.

London, February 24th.

Nothing has yet been decided as to the rebuilding of the English Opera House. A meeting of the friends of Mr. Arnold is called for Thursday next, at which it is intended to submit a plan for the restoration of a theatre so essential to the patrons of the musical drama. Mr. Arnold's loss is, according to the calculation of his treasurer, Mr. Peake, nearly seventy thousand pounds. There can be no doubt that, if pecuniary means are provided, the theatre may be rebuilt by the 1st of July. The present *Porte St. Martin's Theatre*, in Paris, which is considerably larger than the late English Opera House, was built in less than two months.

Theatricals in London, are, on the whole, rather gayer than usual, but neither the proprietors of Covent-Garden or Drury-Lane can boast of large profits. At Covent-Garden, the nightly receipts, except on the evenings of Miss Fanny Kemble's performance, did not average one-third of the expenditure, until Miss Paton was engaged. Now they are much improved, but it is doubtful whether they do more than cover the expenses. At Drury-Lane the average receipts are quite as good as those of Covent-Garden, but as the salaries are much larger, there must be a loss to the proprietors. It has happened, however, fortunately, that most of the new pieces have been successful.

I was this afternoon at Mr. Gurney's factory, and had an opportunity of examining minutely his steam-carriage. I am sorry to say that it is not in the advanced state which some of the newspapers have represented. The difficulty seems to be chiefly as to the means for conveying a sufficient quantity of water. There is no prospect of its starting as a public conveyance next month—indeed, I fear that it will be many months before the ingenious and enterprising patentee can hope to be remunerated for his invention. Upwards of thirty thousand pounds have been already expended upon this concern. There are now several new plans for locomotive engines talked of; one is a carriage to be impelled by chlorine gas—another by air. The patentee of the latter plan has already exhibited, and I hear, with good success; but some time must elapse ere horses can be entirely dispensed with.

In new publications there is little to notice. The only amusing work of the last week is the second volume of Angelo's *Reminiscences*. These are very curious, and they bear about them marks of truth, which are very agreeable after the trash that has been published under the title of *Reminiscences*. Angelo, is a man who has mixed with society of every description, and he has something to tell of every body. He was, until lately, an eminent fencing

master, but he has been succeeded in his profession by his sons, who allow him an annual stipend. The second volume of Moore's *Byron* is not yet out, but its appearance may be expected in a few days. The clever author of this work is now engaged upon a *Life of Petrarch*, for Dr. Lardner's *Cabinet Cyclopædia*, the sale of which has been very great. Mr. Campbell is hard at work upon his *Life of Sir Thomas Lawrence*, so hard, indeed, that he has given public notice to his correspondents, that he will not be able for some time to answer any letters except on business.

The College of Physicians have just resumed their conversaziones for the season. They have issued a great many cards of invitation, and are determined to do things liberally. It is due to this body to say, that they take every opportunity of diffusing the medical knowledge which they have attained; and that, whilst they are accused by their enemies of being full of bigotry and ignorance, the public daily find them anxiously endeavouring to prove the falsehood of such an imputation.

Some splendid specimens of the arts, in ancient and modern times, have just been purchased by the agents of the king, for the furniture of the New Palace. Upwards of fifty large cases, filled with cabinet furniture, have been received from Paris, and several statues and busts are on their way from Rome. A daily paper states that his Majesty has given 14,000*l.* for a vase. This is not true. For the sum named there were several vases, and other articles of exquisite workmanship. In all these purchases the king is consulted; drawings and descriptions are first sent to him, with the price, and if he approves of them, the agents have orders to complete the purchase."

To the Editor of the Dublin Literary Gazette.

SIR—The extension of Knowledge, and the furtherance of Science, being part of the objects of your very interesting weekly publication, I beg to trouble you with the following slight sketch of a plan for promoting the study of Natural History, which I trust you will not deem inadmissible in your Journal.

HINTS FOR ESTABLISHING A SOCIETY

For Promoting the Study of Natural History, to be formed in Dublin.

To consist of any number of Members, to be elected on paying an annual subscription of _____, or a life subscription of _____.

It is calculated that from the great interest now shown for the study of Natural History, a sufficient number of Members would be immediately obtained to commence the Society on a small scale; at first it might be confined to the Natural History of Great Britain and Ireland, and so far only as the formation of a Museum, containing preserved specimens of quadrupeds, birds, fishes and insects, with a collection of the shells found in the three kingdoms.

The success this might meet with would determine the propriety of extending its purpose, so far as to form a collection of living subjects, on the principle of the Zoological Society of London, and of the *Jardin de Plantes*, in Paris.

The co-operation of almost every country-gentleman in Ireland might be calculated on, in procuring specimens of those animals, birds, fishes, or insects, that are inhabitants of our